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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Avi Ashkenazi et al

Serial No.: 09/978189

Filed: 10/15/2001

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Examiner: Not yet assigned

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August 21, 2002

Yvonne Cartel

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above captioned patent application, Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered.

In the specification:

Please delete the paragraph at page 1, line 2, that was previously added by preliminary amendment.

Please insert the following new paragraph at page 1, line 2:

-- RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of, and claims priority under 35 USC §120 to, US Application 09/918585 filed 7/30/2001, which is a continuation of, and claims priority under 35 USC §120 to, PCT Application PCT/US00/04341 filed 2/18/2000, which is a continuation-in-part of, and claims priority

Patent Docket: P2630P1C7

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under 35 USC §120 to, US Application 09/380138 filed 8/25/1999, now abandoned, where US Application 09/380138 is the National Stage filed under 35 USC §371 of PCT Application PCT/US99/05028 filed 3/8/1999, which claims priority under 35 USC §119 to US Provisional Application 60/083336 filed 4/27/1998 and to US Provisional Application 60/064249 filed 11/3/1997.--